

CHILDREN

The President's 2008 Budget ensures children have access to a quality education while promoting healthy lifestyles in an environment free of crime and predators by:

- Building on the Success of No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB);
- Making college more affordable;
- Providing health care coverage to low-income, uninsured children;
- Promoting nutrition assistance programs; and
- Ensuring that our children are protected from exploitation and continuing efforts to reach out to at-risk children.

Building on the success of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB): NCLB is already raising student achievement for millions of children in schools nationwide. And it is working to ensure all students perform at or above grade level in reading and math by 2014. In 2007, the President will work with Congress to reauthorize NCLB so that we can:

- Prepare high school students for the future: Establish the national expectation that all high school students graduate on time with a diploma that prepares them for college and the workplace.
 - \$1.2 billion increase for Title I Grants to Local Educational Agencies, which will primarily be used to increase funding for high schools that serve low-income students.
 - \$412 million will go to States for administration of tests that assess students, high school achievement and college readiness.
 - \$100 million for Striving Readers to expand the development and implementation of research-based interventions to improve the skills of secondary school students who are reading below grade level.
- Ensure Future Competitiveness: \$365 million in new funding as part of the President's American Competitiveness Initiative (ACI) to improve student learning in mathematics and science, including:
 - *Math Now:* \$250 million to prepare elementary and middle school students for more rigorous high school math classes.
 - *Adjunct Teacher Corps:* \$25 million to recruit professional mathematicians, scientists, and engineers over the next eight years to share their expertise with high school and middle school classes.
 - *Advanced Placement/ International Baccalaureate:* A \$90 million increase to train more teachers to teach AP/ IB courses, and expand low-income students access to them.
- Improve Schools and Expand Choices:
 - *Helping schools in need of improvement:* \$500 million in new funding for School Improvement Grants, along with over \$500 million reserved from Title I, to help improve the performance of schools that struggled the most to meet NCLB standards.
 - *Providing new choices for families:* \$300 million to create the Promise and Opportunity Scholarships that will offer education alternatives to low-income students in low-performing schools.

Making college more affordable: In 2008, the Budget will provide nearly \$91 billion in financial aid to 11 million students to help pay for college. The Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education offered recommendations to improve student access to and quality of postsecondary education, The Budget includes several reforms aligned with these recommendations, including:

- An increase in the Pell Grant maximum award from \$4,050 to \$4,600 in 2008 and \$5,400 over five years.
 - A 50 percent increase in Academic Competitiveness Grants for low-income students in their first two years of college who complete a rigorous high school curriculum.
 - \$25 million for a voluntary pilot initiative that will collect and analyze student data to measure outcomes such as graduation rates. This initiative will help ensure accountability and transparency in higher education.
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- **Providing health care coverage to low-income, uninsured children:** SCHIP has provided \$40 billion over the last 10 years to States to provide health care coverage to low-income, uninsured children who were not eligible for Medicaid. The 2008 Budget proposes to:
 - Reauthorize SCHIP for five years;
 - Increase funding by approximately \$5 billion over the next five years;
 - Refocus the program on children at or below 200 percent of poverty levels as was originally intended;
 - Target SCHIP funds more efficiently to States with the most need.

Promoting nutrition assistance programs:

- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children (WIC):
 - \$5.4 billion to serve per month an estimated 8.3 million low-income American postpartum women and their children under five years old. The Department of Agriculture is issuing updated WIC food packages that reduce maximum allowances of certain foods and increase the intake of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Adolescent Health Promotion Initiative: \$17 million to support an effort to address increasing rates of obesity in children through proven, school-based prevention activities.
- National School Breakfast and Lunch Programs: \$11.1 billion to highlight the continuing importance of providing America's children with access to nutritious meals.

Ensuring that our children are protected from exploitation and continuing efforts to reach out to at-risk children:

- Our children should be protected from predators and abuse. That's why the Budget includes \$31 million to reduce the number of children that are exploited and abused at home and at school as well as over the internet.
 - Adam Walsh Act: \$13 million to aggressively pursue and punish sexual predators and to continue to keep the National Sex Offender Registry active.
 - Project Safe Childhood: Provides \$84 million to combat the proliferation of technology-facilitated sexual exploitation crimes against children by partnering with existing national public awareness and educational programs, in order to raise national awareness about the threat of online sexual predators and to provide the tools and information to parents and youngsters seeking to report possible violations.
 - Protect Act: Strengthens laws that prosecute child pornographers, makes punishments against them more severe and gives judges more discretion in deciding on how long to supervise sex offenders upon their release from prison.

- Operation Predator: Seeking to protect children worldwide, the Department of Homeland Security/U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will use ICE's unique investigative and enforcement authority to safeguard children from foreign national pedophiles, human traffickers, international sex tourists, and other predatory criminals.
- Child Safety and Juvenile Justice Programs: \$280 million for grants that address violence against children, including expanded efforts to prevent crimes against children and investigate sexual predators and child prostitution rings.
 - Consolidates existing juvenile justice programs.
 - Eliminates formulas and earmarks -- creating a single, flexible, and competitive grant program.
 - Can address multiple child safety and juvenile justice needs depending on local need or national priority.
 - Expands efforts to prevent crimes against children, and investigate sexual predators, child prostitution rings, and others who seek to harm children.
- Nurse Home Visitation: \$10 million for grants to encourage States to adopt nurse home visitation programs which have proven effective in reducing incidents of child abuse and neglect, as well as improving other outcomes such as health and school readiness.
- Helping America's Youth: A Presidential initiative led by the First Lady to raise awareness about the challenges facing America's youth. This initiative also promotes a community and family based approach to find new partnerships and creative solutions to improve the lives of boys and girls.